

# A LETTER

—TO—

## The Women of Massachusetts.

The Legislature of Massachusetts at its last session, conferred upon the women of the State the right to vote for members of school committees. That right grants alike to those who have not sought it, and to those who have desired it, a share in the responsibility of guarding the best interests of our schools. We believe that those women who care for the wise education of children will wish to avail themselves of this opportunity. That none may be prevented from so doing, by lack of knowledge respecting the practical details connected with the exercise of a function so new to us all, we offer the following information:—

Women who have paid a state or county tax need not take any action except to be registered. This may be done in Boston until fourteen days before election; in other cities until seven days before election; in towns until Saturday before election. If the tax has been paid by parent or guardian it is sufficient. If the tax was assessed on the woman's property standing in her name, it is sufficient, although paid by the hand of another. The office of registration can easily be found in any city or town. In Boston it is at 30 Pemberton Square, where, on presentation of her tax bill, any woman who has paid taxes within two years can be registered, after giving evidence of her educational fitness by signing her name and reading a few lines from the Constitution of the United States.

Women who have not hitherto paid taxes should go to the assessors' office, which in Boston is in City Hall, before Sept. 15, there express their wish to pay a poll tax, stating at the same time whether or not they hold any property subject to taxation. These requirements are identical with those prescribed for male voters by the Act of 1874. It may be well to add that the recent legislation provides for a division of state and county poll-tax, and that the payment of either one of them renders a woman who is liable to no other tax eligible for registration.

These steps being taken—and for a few moments will suffice—nothing remains except to inform ourselves respecting candidates, and give our votes on the day of election to those whom we think are best fitted by character, education and public spirit for service on school committees. In coöperating with conscientious and intelligent men in protecting the welfare of our common schools, we shall be doing our service in the cause of education, which is of such vital importance to the whole community.

(Signed)

Mrs. Louis Agassiz,  
Mrs. R. E. Apthorp,  
Mrs. William Claflin,  
Mrs. J. F. Clarke,  
Miss Sarah F. Clarke,  
Miss Florence M. Cushing,  
Mrs. A. G. Dickinson,  
Miss I. L. Gray,  
Mrs. Dwight Foster,  
Mrs. George S. Hale,  
Mrs. Augustus Hemenway,

Miss Ellen Hyde,  
Mrs. Jonathan A. Lane,  
Miss Anna C. Lowell,  
Mrs. George R. Russell,  
Mrs. C. C. Smith,  
Miss Hannah Stevenson,  
Mrs. I. T. Talbot,  
Mrs. George A. Walton,  
Mrs. John Ware,  
Mrs. R. C. Waterson,  
Mrs. Henry Whitman.

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